

AM9-99-0133
09/500,439In the Claims:

1. (presently amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user comprising the following steps:

retaining user preferences, wherein said user preferences comprise any of, or a combination of: professional or personal contacts, preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, or maximum number of candidates to select;

retaining a list of possible contacts, said list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

automatically initiating searching said list of possible contacts to select a-at least one potential contact based on said user preferences,

retaining said at least one potential contacts-contact selected during said search, and

displaying to the user an available image or other identifying information of a-said at least one potential contact identified during said automatic searching to automatically remind the user to stay in touch with said at least one potential contact.

2. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said user preferences comprise either preferences input by the user or pre-selected default preferences.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said list of contacts further comprises any of: name, organization, work

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address, home address, telephone numbers, pager numbers, cellular numbers, e-mail address, personal or professional identifiers, special dates, and contact dates.

5. (presently amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said automatic searching step is initiated automatically by a said time-based reference in the user preferences.

6. (presently amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claims 3, wherein said time-based reference comprises references comprise any of: frequency of contact, time between contacts, or calendar-based contact.

7. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 5, wherein said automatic initiation of said searching step comprises: comparing applicable time-based references stored in said user preferences with a timer module, and upon a positive comparison, initiating said search step.

8. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said selection of a potential contact in said search step is either random or based on a select algorithm.

9. (presently amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said search step is repeated until a said maximum number of candidates for selection has been achieved.

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10. (previously amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said displaying step further comprises insertion of said available image or identifying information into a GUI.

11. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 10, wherein said GUI comprises an electronic organizer.

12. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said method may be implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-based systems, across networks or existing communication mediums.

13. (original) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 12, wherein said across networks element comprises any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet or Web-based networks.

14. (presently amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, said system comprising:

user preferences stored in computer storage, wherein said user preferences comprise any of, or a combination of, professional or personal contacts, preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, or maximum number of candidates to select;

a contact list stored in computer storage, said contact list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

a manual request unit;

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a time-based request unit providing an invocation for time-based automatic initiation of searching;

a display module;

a search module, said search module determining the candidates to be selected;

a request processor, said processor detecting an invocation output from said manual request unit or said time-based request unit and initiating said search module to select one or more possible contacts at least one potential candidate, and

wherein said selected at least one potential candidate candidates selected by said search module are-is stored in computer storage and processed to automatically remind a user to keep in communication with said at least one possible contacts by displaying display, by-via said display module, said selected contact potential candidate's image or other identifying information to the user.

15. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said user preferences comprise either preferences input by the user or pre-selected default preferences.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said list of contacts further comprises any of: name, organization, work address, home address, telephone numbers, pager numbers, cellular numbers, e-mail address, personal or professional identifiers, special dates, and contact dates.

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18. (presently amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said time-based reference comprises references comprise any of: frequency of contact, time between contacts, or calendar-based contact.

19. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 16, wherein said automatic initiation of said selection by said search module comprises: comparing applicable time-based references stored in said user preferences with said timer module, and upon a positive comparison, initiating said search.

20. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein selection of a possible contact is either random or based on a select algorithm.

21. (presently amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more contacts are obtained by repeated execution of said search until a-said maximum number of candidates for selection has been achieved.

22. (previously amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said displaying further comprises insertion of said available image or identifying information into a GUI.

23. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 22, wherein said GUI comprises an electronic organizer.

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24. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said system may be implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-based systems, across networks or existing communication mediums.

25. (original) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 24, wherein said across networks element comprises any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet or Web-based networks.

26. (presently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact comprising computer programmable code implementing:

retaining default or user selected preferences, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contacts, preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select;

retrieving a list of possible contacts; said list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

selecting a number of possible candidates to be presented;

identifying a specific method of possible candidate selection;

automatically initiating a search for one or more possible candidates based on said user preferences, available candidates and method of selection, and

wherein said one or more candidates identified based on said automatically initiated search are presented visually to automatically remind the user as a suggestion for to stay in contact with said one or more identified contacts.

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27. (Cancelled)

28. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said list of contacts further comprises any of: name, organization, work address, home address, telephone numbers, pager numbers, cellular numbers, e-mail address, personal or professional identifiers, special dates, and contact dates.

29. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said automatically initiating a search is based on a time-based reference in the user preferences.

30. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 29, wherein said time-based reference comprises any of: frequency of contact, time between contacts or calendar-based contact.

31. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 29, wherein said automatically initiating a search comprises: comparing applicable time-based references stored in said user preferences with a timer function, and upon a positive comparison, initiating said search.

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32. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said selection of a possible contact in said search step is either random or based on a select algorithm.

33. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said search step is repeated until a maximum number of candidates for selection has been achieved.

34. (previously amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said presenting visually to the user step further comprises insertion of said available image or identifying information into a GUI.

35. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 34, wherein said GUI comprises an electronic organizer.

36. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said process may be implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-based systems, across networks or existing communication mediums.

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37. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 36, wherein said across networks element comprises any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet or Web-based networks.